Growth and Consequences

This fall, a record-setting number of new students joined the University Honors College community, surpassing our anticipated class by almost 20 percent. This is exciting evidence of our success in establishing the UHC as a destination of choice for many of the Northwest’s best students, but the increasing enrollments also create some challenges for us now and in the future. Our goal is to double the size of the UHC by 2015, using 2008 as the baseline. How, within this context of continued growth, do we preserve and foster the qualities that make the UHC special?

The UHC is predicated on delivering a small college feel, one that scales the vast opportunities of the university down to a personal, accessible level. Limiting class sizes is one part of this, but only a part: we want to make sure that each UHC student continues to have direct access – to faculty, research and extracurricular opportunities, academic support, and to one another – to the elements that bind our community together. Preserving this intimate feel requires growth in our infrastructure and services that matches the growth in our student body. We continue to work with our partners in OSU’s academic departments and colleges to expand our course offerings, not just in number but also in kind, and in the following pages, you can see some of the ways we are trying to think innovatively about improving our academic curriculum. We have also introduced a new process for helping students complete the senior thesis, the capstone of the UHC experience, that is designed to make sure students are not overwhelmed and don’t fall through the cracks.

Internally, we have changed our staffing structure, adding a new position and modifying others, with the goal of maintaining and improving the support services for our students – read on for updates on these changes as well. All of this helps prepare us for growth this year and down the road.

A constant amidst growth and transition is the achievement of our students. And therein lies the opportunity of continued growth. Our students not only contribute to the Honors community, they enrich the entire campus community through their leadership in courses, their service, and their participation in extracurricular activities, and they carry these contributions...
Dan Euhus, a member of the University Honors College’s first full graduating class, has been appointed an Associate Professor in Oregon State University’s School of Chemical, Biological, and Environmental Engineering. After spending the last seven years in industry, Dan is excited by the prospect of working closely with students at OSU. “What more can you ask for,” the 1999 grad says, “returning to your alma mater as a professor!”

After completing his UHC thesis on black liquor, a byproduct of paper pulp production, Dan earned a Ph.D. in chemical engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology in 2003. He worked for Shell Chemicals until 2007, when he joined the Chevron Energy Technology Company to work in research and new technology development. This eventually led to his assignment to Catchlight Energy, a joint venture between Chevron and Weyerhaeuser researching and developing biofuels, a posting he will be leaving to join Oregon State.

Dan is looking forward to working with the UHC again, this time from the other side of the classroom, where his extensive experience in the energy industry will give him a unique and valuable perspective for students. “The UHC isn’t the only place to find smart undergraduates at Oregon State, but it sure has a lot of them,” says Dan, “and working with students is definitely one of the biggest attractions to returning to campus.” Dan is moving to Corvallis from Katy, TX with his wife Kimberly and three sons.

**NEW FACES, NEW ROLES - STAFF CHANGES PREPARE THE UHC FOR CONTINUED GROWTH**

Members of the record-setting incoming class were not the only new faces in the UHC at the start of 2010-2011 classes. Three new staff members greeted students this year: Greg Arthid Feroglia, the UHC’s new Graduate Student and Alumni Engagement; Robert Nye, professor emeritus in the Department of History and one of the UHC’s longest-standing faculty partners, was named the 2009-2010 UHC Outstanding Professor of the Year by the Honors Advisory and Activities Committee. This honor is given annually to a faculty member nominated by UHC students and is awarded at the UHC Spring Picnic.

“you can ask really hard questions, you can push them, and you can challenge them....”

Professor Nye, who formally retired in the spring of 2007, is one of the world’s foremost authorities on the history of masculinity and the history of sexuality, and his scholarly work has encompassed the history of the social sciences, the history of medicine, and the historical interaction between ideas and culture with an emphasis on France and Western Europe. In 2009-2010, he taught his course in the History of Sexuality for the UHC, a class first offered in an Honors version in 2002, and he mentored a UHC senior thesis by Katie Parker entitled “Reason as Race: Enlightenment Racial Discourse,” an examination of how European accounts of encounters with South American natives were interjected into the discourse in Europe linking race with the capacity for “reason.” In a profile for the UHC website, Katie, who is now pursuing graduate work in history at the University of Pittsburgh, singled out Professor Nye as the most important influence in her entire undergraduate experience.

Continued on Page 8
To look inward and explore Oregon’s natural and social history of the Klamath basin.

While the Outback Tour gave students the opportunity to explore its geology, ecology, management, and ecological diversity, a year-long research project sponsored by the UHC DeLoach Work Scholarship looked beyond the state’s borders. Under the direction of Dr. Ping-Hung Hsieh from the College of Business, four UHC students developed a comparative analysis of Oregon companies engaged in business with Taiwan. During the winter term, students prepared interview questions and a research framework. In the spring, they interviewed companies in Oregon before traveling to Taiwan immediately after spring finals to complete their research. The final results of the study, which shows how Oregon companies are working within a global economy, will be presented to OSU faculty and students in the 2010-2011 academic year.

The UHC’s Pathway Scholar Mentor Program introduced in the winter of 2010, on the other hand, allowed students to engage with the world without leaving Corvallis. Developed in partnership with INTO OSU, a program that brings international students to OSU and offers a variety of courses and language classes that can lead to full enrollment in Oregon State University, the Pathway Scholar Mentor Program gives UHC students the opportunity to earn credit by helping INTO students practice English conversation skills. During weekly conversations of about one hour, UHC students learned about their partners’ cultures – discussing topics that ranged from cars to marriage customs – while providing a valuable service to the greater academic community. At the end of the term, participants submitted a report demonstrating their knowledge of the social, cultural, and economic environment in their partners’ countries and reflecting on the meaning of life-long learning in a global context. Over 90 UHC and INTO students participated in this program, building a very successful inaugural year.

Service also played a key role in a new, innovative short-term study abroad course offered by the UHC during 2010 spring break. This intensive session was intended to give students who do not have the resources or time to pursue one of the full-term study abroad programs offered by the International Degree and Education Abroad program at OSU the opportunity to have their own international experience.

Ten UHC students participated in this “alternative” spring break, travelling to Morelia, Mexico, the capital of Michoacan and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The course involved four days of classroom work in Spanish language and local culture, including walking tours of Morelia, a town with a rich colonial and pre-colonial history. Then, after enjoying the traditional 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. siesta, students took part in community service assignments. For some, this involved working with non-profit organizations to provide children from low-income families with educational support, food supplies, and counseling. Other UHC students helped in after school programs and with educational support, food supplies, and counseling. These service also played a key role in a new, innovative short-term study abroad course offered by the UHC during 2010 spring break. This intensive session was intended to give students who do not have the resources or time to pursue one of the full-term study abroad programs offered by the International Degree and Education Abroad program at OSU the opportunity to have their own international experience.

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Non-traditional classes and opportunities such as these are key components of the UHC mission. Not only do they fulfill a mandate to provide our students with unique experiences in applied learning, they encourage our students to engage with the world, be it local or global, beyond the university and think about what their education means – and what responsibilities it entails – within this broad context.
Visitors to the fifth floor of the Valley Library can’t help but notice a beautifully lit room overlooking the library quad. The curious who enter this inviting space find more than windows with fine views of the outside scenery; here, the home of the OSU Library’s Special Collections, guests can open a portal on the treasures of OSU’s past as well. Special Collections holds a number of book and archival collections, most of which focus on the history of twentieth-century science and technology. But the crown jewel of the collection is the Ava Helen and Linus Pauling Papers, and it is Special Collections that houses these invaluable documents available in Special Collections each year. After a few years, Cliff realized that his UHC employees were invariably his best workers. Eventually he began to hire Honors students almost exclusively, trusting them with an expanding set of responsibilities and duties ranging from cataloging and editing collections to planning important events.

It has, in fact, become common for students affiliated with the UHC to organize Special Collections’ biennial Linus Pauling Legacy Award Ceremony. Former UHC student Michelle Cassinelli was the first to manage this event, in 2006, and Michelle Spatz took charge during her senior year in 2008, when Nobel Laureate Roderick MacKinnon received the Pauling Award. Spatz now teaches in annual volumes kept in the Special Collections room in the Valley Library.

The ‘special’ relationship between the UHC and Special Collections is a healthy, thriving partnership. In exchange for providing Special Collections with a pool of exemplary employees and gifted scholars, UHC students benefit from the unique access and research opportunities provided by Cliff Mead and the Special Collections team. This mutually beneficial arrangement is a model for how the UHC can contribute to the campus community while facilitating our students’ own academic advancement.

For my Honors International degree thesis,” Tyler told Terra magazine, “because of the international opportunity of working with people from around the world.” Marsha plans to pursue medical school or biomedical research after graduation.

While remarkable, Marsha’s choice to spend time on research abroad is not unique. Other UHC students are also finding experiences of this kind to be invaluable, not just for graduate school applications and resumes, but in preparing them for work in an increasingly interconnected world. For geology and environmental science major Celene Christensen, a spring, 2010 internship in Blanes, Spain was a way of broadening her knowledge of stream ecology and different approaches to ecology in general. Tyler Rockey, a recent graduate in geography, found his eleven week internship in Ayacucho, Peru, with the Foundation for International Community Assistance (FINCA) to be eye-opening and, ultimately, inspirational.

As President Ed Ray welcomed back OSU’s faculty and staff at the 2010 University Day, he singled out UHC student Marsha Lampi as an exemplar of student success and achievement at OSU. While it is hardly unusual for a member of the UHC to be noted as one of OSU’s best and brightest, Marsha’s particular accomplishment — winning a highly competitive international internship — is indicative of a route a growing number of UHC students are taking, one that merges research and international experiences.

Marsha, now in her fourth year, spent the summer of 2010 in Lausanne, Switzerland on an eight-week internship with the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (EPFL), one of only two dozen students selected from an international pool of applicants. A bioengineering student, she worked in the EPFL’s Hubert Laboratory, which specializes in biomaterials, drug delivery, and tissue engineering research. Encouraged by her mentor Skip Rochefort, a professor at OSU in chemical engineering, Marsha was accepted in internship programs at Berkeley, Stanford, and MIT as well as at EPFL. “I chose to do research at the EPFL,” she told Terra magazine, “because of the international opportunity of working with people from around the world.”

As President Ray’s comments indicate, UHC students are taking the lead in meeting the challenges of a globalized world head on.
Awards and Accomplishments

UHC Student Caitlin Crimp Receives Goldwater Scholarship

Caitlin Crimp, a UHC biochemistry and biophysics major, was named a Barry M. Goldwater Scholar, the only OSU student to receive the honor this year. This prestigious scholarship, sponsored by the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Program, is intended to cover tuition, fees, books, and living expenses for the country’s top science, math, and engineering undergraduates. “Winning the Goldwater scholarship was a tremendous personal accomplishment and really showed that all of my hard work over the past three years has paid off,” Crimp said.

“The rigorous coursework of the Biochemistry/Biophysics major certainly provided me with a strong scientific foundation, although I really have to credit my incredible professors and research mentors for their support in the laboratory,” she said.

Crimp applied just two weeks short of the deadline and was accepted.

“Thank goodness I cleaned my room when I did!” she said.

UHC students were also well represented in university-wide awards, winning the American Association of University Women Award, the Grace Wu Outstanding Woman Award, and the Burlington Undergraduate Student of Excellence Award. Twenty-three of 64 Waldo Cummings Award winners and honorable mentions were UHC students.

Internal college award winners were Professors Bill Bogley – named UHC Eminent Professor for 2010 – and Robert Nye, the 2009-2010 Outstanding UHC Professor. Richard Alves and Shayna Rogers were awarded the Culture of Life@OSU Alum Receives Prestigious Graduate Fellowship

Taralyn Tan landed at Oregon State University almost by happy accident. Having already applied at other colleges during her senior year in high school, she happened upon a brochure for Oregon State while cleaning her room and started reading about the school’s medical preceptorship program. Intrigued, Tan applied just two weeks short of the deadline and was accepted.

“Thank goodness I cleaned my room when I did!” she said.

Tan, a 2008 graduate of Oregon State in biochemistry and biophysics and an honors college student, has just been awarded a Phi Kappa Phi Marcus L. Urann Fellowship, which provides $15,000 toward her graduate study in neuroscience at Harvard University.

Tan was the recipient of the 2010 OSU Chapter of Phi Kappa Phi award, which put her in the running for the national fellowship. She was the top-ranked applicant for the national fellowship, receiving a perfect score for her application.

“I am excited to be able to represent OSU, and I am so happy that OSU is getting national recognition in the form of this award,” Tan said. “I received a magnificent undergraduate education at Oregon State, and so I really view this fellowship as a credit to my wonderful mentors and teachers.”

John Sessions, distinguished professor in forest engineering, resources and management, also of the OSU Chapter of Phi Kappa Phi, helped Tan prepare her application for the national competition.

Tan, a native of Salem, Ore., originally chose OSU because of its opportunity to study marine biology. While Tan was working in a research lab at Harvard since graduation, her graduate program officially started this fall.

“The fellowship takes some of the financial burden away from the program in neuroscience at Harvard, freeing resources for other aspects of the program,” she said last spring. “It also defrays the cost of the early rotation that I am planning for this summer, allowing me to get a head start before the program officially starts in September.”

Tan hopes to one day become a professor herself, and said she dreams of returning to OSU one day in that capacity. “I would love to eventually return to teach at my alma mater.”

While Tan has been working in a research lab at Harvard since graduation, her graduate program officially started this fall.

“Winning the Goldwater scholarship was a tremendous personal accomplishment and really showed that all of my hard work over the past three years has paid off,” Crimp said. After graduation, Crimp plans to pursue a dual M.D./Ph.D. program in biochemistry.

Although Nye’s sexuality course has received its share of notoriety over the years, the purely prurient are quickly disappointed: few classes at OSU draw on a more sophisticated set of texts, cover broader intellectual territory, or push students further to examine cultural – and personal – assumptions. At the same time, his Outstanding Professor nomination letter emphasized his ability to make the course accessible to students with a wide range of backgrounds and perspectives.

For many of the students who have taken the History of Sexuality in the UHC, this makes it a perfect Honors course – the kind that can, after a single session, change the way the world looks.

For his part, Professor Nye is, in his retirement, only interested in teaching courses in the UHC. “Students in the Honors courses, they want to participate in the experience,” he said in a filmed interview; “you can ask really hard questions, you can push them, and you can challenge them...” In winter, 2011, Nye will bring another one of his passions to UHC students, music, in a new UHC class called Mozart, Schubert, Beethoven: A History.
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University Honors College at OSU
229 Strand Hall
Corvallis, OR 97331-2221

Eric Hill, Writing Instructor
Ardith Feroglia, Graduate Teaching Assistant
Rebekah Lancelin, Academic Advisor
Kevin Stoller, Executive Assistant
Ph. 541-737-6400 Fax 541-737-6401
honors.college@oregonstate.edu
http://oregonstate.edu/dept/honors

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